Garden State NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, Inc.

New Jersey NUMISMATIC JOURNAL

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GSNA's Off and Running

William H. Horton Jr. (left), acting president of the Garden State Numismatic Association, distributes GSNA membership applications to (left to right) Edward Meister of the Bergen County Coin Club; Edward Koplin, president of the Union County Coin Club, and Lester Kinley, president of the Northern Valley Coin Club. All attended a recent GSNA meeting in Paramus.

(Photo by Ed Reiter)

The Garden State Numismatic Association is off and running.

As of Aug. 1, New Jersey's new state coin organization had 77 individual members, including 16 life members, and nine club members — and membership seemed likely to pass the 100 mark by summer's end.

"I feel we're off to a very good start," said William H. Horton Jr., GSNA's acting president. "Now what we need to do is get more people involved in planning our programs."

A major step in this direction was taken May 16, when some 40 persons attended the association's second public meeting, at the Holiday Inn in Paramus. That meeting was designed to draw collectors — and potential members — from the northern part of the state.

Plans called for a meeting in the southern part of the state in late summer or early fall.

Meantime, GSNA's organizing committee was busy completing arrangements for a statewide picnic — hopefully the first in an annual series — Sept. 21 in Somerset County's Colonial Park.

"We hope to have many such activities," Horton said, "but the only way we can do this is if everyone pitches in."

Membership applications can be obtained by writing to GSNA, P.O. Box 302, Cliffwood, N.J. 07721.

Annual dues are $5 for regular members, $3 for junior members, $10 for club members, and $1 for associate members. Life membership is available for $50.

The New Jersey Numismatic Journal is sent at no cost, other than dues, to all members except associate members.

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Numismatics isn't kid stuff — but the hobby does hold great appeal for kids. Our photo page puts the spotlight on youth, on Page 9.

Among other features:

— A look at Closter's Abram Belskie, a great man of "medalcine," on page 6.

— A report on how the Garden State greeted the first bicentennial coins, on page 8.

— A profile of a man who plays "Cent-a" Claus with coins, on page 10.

Come to Our Picnic

The first annual GSNA picnic will take place Sunday, Sept. 21, at Colonial Park, near Interstate Route 287 in Somerset County. GSNA members, members of coin clubs affiliated with GSNA, and all prospective members are invited to attend, along with their families.

Those attending should bring their own picnic baskets, but refreshments and charcoal will be provided. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted. For purposes of planning, the picnic committee asks that those who intend to come notify the chairman giving the number of adults and children in their group.

Further information can be obtained from the picnic chairman, Ed Smith, c/o GSNA, P.O. Box 302, Cliffwood, N.J. 07721.

Those coming should take Route 287 to the Weston Canal Road exit, near South Bound Brook; turn left, then left again onto Campus Drive, proceed about a mile to Elizabeth Avenue, then turn right. Colonial Park is about five miles further on the right.

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Q. WHY INVEST IN COINS?

A. There are a number of reasons:

(A) Coins have a limited supply. Only a certain number were ever minted and an even fewer number were put away in excellent condition. With close to ten million investors and collectors it is not too difficult to see the day when there is truly an inelastic supply for the ever-growing demand. The net result can hardly be anything but tremendous price increases.

(B) Coins are easy to liquidate. We at East Coast guarantee to buy back, or act as selling agent for your coins, at their market price at time of sale.

(C) Coins are inexpensively and easily stored in a safety deposit box.

(D) Coins are an excellent inflation hedge.

(E) Profits are subject to long-term capital gains taxes if held for six months or longer. There are also ways to invest pre-tax dollars in coins through pension programs.

(F) Coin prices are generally not as volatile as other investments. Historically, coins have increased in value year to year. In the last five or six years coins have increased over 25% per year. (Compare this advance to Dow Jones)! This is truly significant in our era of double digit inflation.

Q. HOW DID COIN PRICES REACT DURING THE LAST DEPRESSION?

A. During the boom period of the 1920's, coin prices maintained a steady climb upwards but did not soar out of all proportion to their value. When the crash came, rare coins held their value in nearly all cases with the price structure generally remaining firm.

Q. HOW HAVE COIN PRICES INCREASED IN RECENT TIMES.

A. In the late 1960's, the coin market began to attract more and more investors rather than merely hobbyists. When stocks are strong, coins usually are strong, when the stock market is weak coins have continued to remain strong (as is happening now). There's no doubt about it, rare coin investments have strongly outperformed the Dow Jones Averages. (Refer to charts)

Q. WHO SELECTS THE COINS FOR MY RARE COIN COLLECTION.

A. Although East Coast employs a staff of qualified representatives, all portfolios are personally assembled by Donald J. Muniz, President of East Coast Coin Company. Mr. Muniz has been active in Coin Investments since the mid-fifties. He has his hand on the pulse of the current coin market as well as possessing the expertise that comes with years of study and practical experience. If you are a knowledgeable coin collector, we will be most happy to confer with you at length to enhance your collection, while increasing your portfolio's worth.

Q. HOW DOES THE FUTURE LOOK FOR RARE COIN INVESTMENT?

A. We at East Coast feel rare coins are only beginning to be recognized as an important investment vehicle. As knowledge of the investment success of rare coins reaches more people, prices (supply and demand) are certain to respond. East Coast Coin Investments Co. hopes you will be one of those to share in the large profits to come.

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The current market will determine what the particular selection will be for your portfolio each month. We will make our selection from any of the following categories based upon the market trend, or you may specify your choice. Here are the investment coin categories:

A. **Early Proof Sets:** Sets of coins minted each year by the U.S. government from special dies and issued to a special list of subscribers.
B. **Rare Coins:** Better date low mintage coins valued particularly for their rarity and beauty.
C. **Brilliant Uncirculated Type Coins and Type Sets:** Coins that may be the most common example of a variety but because of age and condition are a desirable investment item.
D. **Rare and Modern Uncirculated Sets:** Coins consisting of the entire series of an issue, by date and mint.
E. **Gold Coins:** Both rare and common dates in choice condition including popular American Commemorative gold.
F. **Silver Dollar:** Both common and the rare date variety.
G. **B. U. Rolls:** Brilliant uncirculated rolls of coins of high investment potential—cents, nickles, dimes, quarters, halves and silver dollars.

(We also offer: (1) Bag quantities of common Silver Coins or Silver Dollars plus Silver bullion. (2) Bullion Gold Coins and Gold Bullion).

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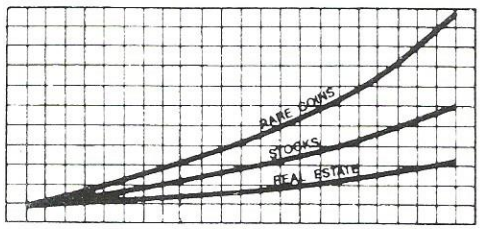
You may return any or all of the coins we select for you within 7 days for a full refund or exchange. (Does not apply to "Bullion Coins".) We also guarantee to buy back or act as selling agent for your coins at their market price at the time of sale.

Donald J. Muniz, President

COMPARATIVE RESULTS:



COMPOUNDED ANNUAL RATE OF RETURN (1947—1974)

	1947—74	1969—74	1973—74
Rare Coins	19.0%	27.3%	160.0%
Standard & Poor's 500 (Capital appr. & div. yield)	10.7	2.3	-23.1
Dow Jones Industrials (Capital appr. & div. yield)	9.9	3.2	-16.0
Standard & Poor's AAA Industrial Bonds	7.89	8.9	8.7
Municipal Bonds	5.7	5.9	5.2
Farm Real Estate	5.6	7.3	NA
Silver Bullion	4.4	10.5	61.6
Gold Bullion	3.5	21.6	72.3

We're on the Grow

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *William H. Horton Jr. is serving as acting president of the Garden State Numismatic Association. This is his report to the membership on the progress being made by the organizing committee.)*

By WILLIAM H. HORTON JR.

Since my last report in the spring issue of the journal, the association has achieved rapid growth. As of Aug. 1, GSNA had 58 regular, 16 life, three junior, and nine club members. At this pace, the association will soon be one of the largest of its kind in the country.

You'll be happy to learn, too, that on July 1 the association received its incorporation papers from the State of New Jersey as a nonprofit organization.

In May, GSNA joined the American Numismatic Association. We hope to have this issue of the NJNJ back from the printer in time to distribute copies at the 1975 ANA convention in Los Angeles. Our editor, Ed Reiter, will attend the convention, as will John Harris, ANA district representative in New Jersey and a life member of GSNA. We'd like to show the dealers and dignitaries at the national convention what we're doing, and possibly persuade them to come to our own first convention.

On May 16, GSNA held its second public meeting and its first since the night of the Val Pasvolsky dinner. About 40 persons attended the meeting, at the Holiday Inn in Paramus. Some of those in attendance suggested that we postpone our first convention until 1977. I would like to have additional opinions on this matter from my fellow collectors, so please drop a line and let me know what you think. We gained valuable information from those who came, and had a lively discussion on matters concerning the future of GSNA — so much so that we didn't finish the meeting until after 10 p.m. Afterward, Victor Timmermann gave an excellent slide presentation on the Philadelphia Mint.

We plan to hold our third public meeting in the near future in the Camden-Cherry Hill area. Date and time of the meeting will be announced as soon as we complete the arrangements. I hope attendance is as good as it was in May or even better.

On Sept. 21, the first annual GSNA picnic will take place at Colonial Park, near Interstate Route 287 in Somerset County. The association has a picnic grove reserved from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., and all New Jersey collectors are welcome to attend. This is one of many functions GSNA plans to sponsor on a yearly basis. Ed Smith, president of the Hazlet Coin Club, is in charge of the outing and has many activities planned throughout the day for young and old alike. Plan to attend, and bring your family and friends. Further information will be sent to all clubs and GSNA members when plans are completed.

WILLIAM H. HORTON JR.

In the fall issue of the journal, I will be calling for nomination of officers for 1976 — so start thinking of who you'd like to propose for the various offices.

If you have any questions or comments, please drop me a line at P.O. Box 302, Cliffwood, N.J. 07721.

See you Sept. 21!

NEW JERSEY NUMISMATIC JOURNAL

is the quarterly publication of the

Garden State Numismatic Association

Correspondence about the association should be sent to William Horton, P.O. Box 302, Cliffwood, N.J. 07721.

Correspondence about the journal should be sent to Ed Reiter, Editor, 1010 Sunset Ave., Asbury Park, N.J. 07712.

Those wishing to advertise in the New Jersey Numismatic Journal must furnish advertising copy. The NJNJ will not provide a checking copy, but a copy of the issue in which the ad appears will be sent to each advertiser as proof of publication.

Ads must be received three weeks before the publication date. The fall 1975 issue is scheduled to go to press on Nov. 10, so ads must be received by Oct. 20.

Following are the advertising rates:

Full page. $65
Inside covers. $70
Outside back cover. . . . $75
1/2 page. $35
1/4 page. $20
1/8 page. $12

There is an additional charge of $3 each for photos which must be processed separately for use with ads.

Tips on Collecting

(Cut along dotted line and save)

1. Coin collecting involves a continuous learning process.
2. Set a goal that is attainable.
3. Money invested in coins should be considered as spent.
4. Don't put all your eggs in one basket (or all your coins in one album).
5. Develop as many contacts as possible
6. Coin collecting is a hobby, not a business — don't expect to make a profit on a sale or trade.
7. Buy the best quality you can afford.
8. There are no bargains — every underpriced coin has some flaw.
9. Maintain records of your coins and their cost.
10. Keep your coins in a secure place.

G.S.N.A.

Membership List

Following is a list of regular, junior, life, and club members of the Garden State Numismatic Association, complete as of Aug. 1. New members will be listed in the journal as they join.

REGULAR MEMBERS

R-001 Robert Bassell
002 Darrel Doll
003 Charles Morrison
004 Val Pasvolsky
005 Francis G. Sanders
006 Marcel Sassola Jr.
007 Eugene T. Yotka
008 Eugene F. Gierisch
009 Vincent J. Rogers
010 Amora Rogers
011 George Sarunich
012 Joseph B. Lynch
013 Alfred Fleishman
014 Thomas R. Villone
015 William A. Mulligan
016 L. Rosenblum
017 Victor C. Timmermann
018 Ed Smith
019 Ronald Friedman
020 William H. Coward
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022 John C. Holt
023 James R. Kennedy
024 Hugh B. Merill
025 A. J. Gervasio
026 Rich Nixon
027 Joseph Kemprowski Sr.
028 Chris Stable
029 John Soriano
030 Edward J. Koplin
031 Mrs. Cathy Fitzpatrick
032 Nancy Paul Davis
033 Chuck O'Donnell
034 Irv Kalter
035 James A. Heath
036 Michael J. Rogers
037 Joseph Vancko
038 David Paszamant
039 Dr. John A. Muscalus
040 C. M. View Jr.
041 Greg M. Jehlik
042 John J. Merrigan Jr.
043 A. E. Washor
044 Robert W. Hearn
045 William C. Hearn
046 Jerry Zara
047 Charles Messner
048 William O. Wisslead
049 Albert Berkman
050 Lt. Col. G. B. Edwards
051 Robert G. Jenkins
052 Ken Basham
053 Robert Ciccone
054 Willie R. Werosta
055 Michael Sheffield
056 Charles J. Forno
057 Lester A. Kinley
058 Leslie Gates
059 Alan J. Ackerman
060 Daniel G. Melvin
061 Santa Colavita

Donald A. Schwartz (left), executive vice president of Medallic Art Co., chats with President and Mrs. Gerald R. Ford after ceremony at which Ford received inaugural medal struck by Medallic Art. Schwartz attended Admiral Farragut Academy, Pine Beach.

LIFE MEMBERS

LM-001 William H. Horton Jr.
002 Ed Reiter
003 Archie Black
004 Charles Berg
005 John E. Graves
006 John Harris
007 Jules E. Topper
008 Donald J. Muniz
009 Richard W. Hooker
010 Randy Block
011 William H. Randel
012 Joseph S. Kemprowski
013 William C. Pullen
014 Norman W. Pullen
015 Ronald J. Tomaszewski
016 David R. Green

CLUB MEMBERS

CM-001 Middlesex County Coin Club Inc.
002 Hazlet Coin Club
003 Union County Coin Club
004 Coin Club of Ocean County
005 Monmouth Coin Club
006 Madison Township Coin & Stamp Club
007 Israel Numismatic Society of New Jersey
008 Israel Numismatic Society of Central Jersey
009 Atlantic Coast Stamp & Coin Club

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
(INDIVIDUAL)

Garden State NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

No. _____
Date _____
For Office Use

Print Name _____ Occupation _____

Home Address _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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Abram Belskie: Closter's Doctor Of 'Medal-cine'

William F. Krieg (left), vice president for collector relations of The Franklin Mint, presents American Numismatic Association Numismatic Art Award to Abram Belskie at the 1974 ANA convention in Miami Beach.

(Photo courtesy of Neil Harris, The Numismatist)

Neighbors in Closter, N.J., don't go to Abram Belskie when they need a tetanus shot. Many do seek his advice on medical matters, though, even though he's a sculptor, not a doctor — for he may know more about medicine than any other sculptor in the world.

Belskie might well be called the world's foremost practitioner of "medal-cine," for his work, like this synthetic word, has ofter been a blend of medallic art and medicine.

More successfully, perhaps, that any other man in recent years, he has used art — medallic and otherwise — to advance the cause of medical science, and medals to make medicine more meaningful to laymen.

In the field of medicine, Belskie is renowned for the life-size, life-weight latex teaching models he developed, in conjunction with Dr. Robert L. Dickinson, while serving as medical sculptor at the New York Medical College. And in the field of art, he has been praised and honored for his sculptures and medals — notably the 50 medals he designed for the "Great Men of Medicine" series issued by Presidential Art Medals Inc.

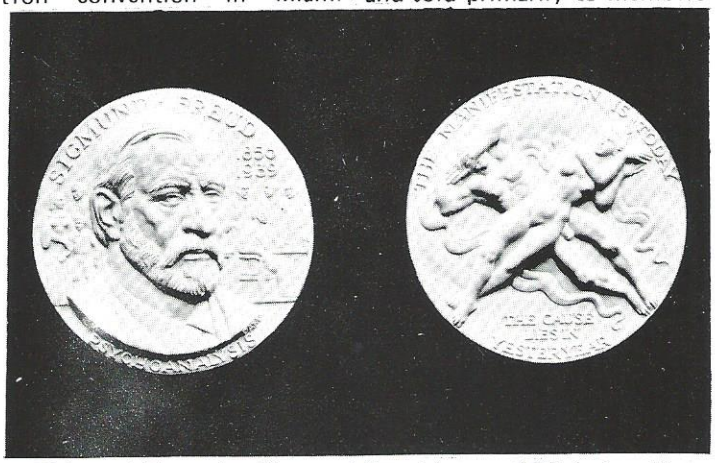
The 68-year-old sculptor got one of his most prestigious awards last summer at the American Numismatic Association convention in Miami Beach, when he received the 1974 ANA Numismatic Art Award for Excellence in Medallic Sculpture.

The distinguished "Great Men of Medicine" series, honoring healers from Hippocrates onward, figured prominently in the ANA's decision to bestow its numismatic art award on Belskie — and it ranks among his personal favorites, too.

"I think I like everything I have done," he says, "but this is something special — something that, in sequence, has become a history...a monument in itself. A monument, you know, does not have to be very large.

"I like it," he continues, "because it combines both art and science. I don't think, really, there's any barrier between them. If the combination was good enough for Leonardo da Vinci, it's good enough for me."

Among the "Great Men" honored in the series are such medical giants as William Harvey, Louis Pasteur, Walter Reed, and Sigmund Freud. There's one great woman, too: Madame Marie Curie, the discoverer of radium. The medals were issued at the rate of one a month, beginning in September 1969, in two versions: a silver edition limited to 5,000 medals and sold primarily to members of the medical profession, and a bronze edition sold without restrictions. They were struck by Medallic Art Co.



This medal honoring Sigmund Freud is one of 50 designed by Abram Belskie for the "Great Men of Medicine" series.

Art and science aren't the only diverse elements Belskie brings together. Physically, too, he is a study in contrasts. As he himself admits, "My voice doesn't quite fit my appearance."

Tall and spare, with a long, narrow face, he seems from a distance somewhat gruff and aloof. The illusion fades quickly when he speaks, however, for his voice is soft and modulated and still bears traces of both London, where he was born, and Glasgow, where he grew to manhood.

Belskie began his formal art training at the age of 15 as an apprentice to William M. Petrie, a Scottish sculptor and painter identified with the Pre-Raphaelite school of art — which, he quips, "sort of dates me." At 16, he enrolled in the Glasgow School of Art, and after completing four years there, he furthered his training in London, Paris, and Rome.

He came to the United States, to New York, in 1929, when he was 22 — and he ruefully recalls that his timing couldn't have been worse.

"I came on Nov. 11," he remembers, "and the Depression was just beginning. Everyone was falling out of windows. Most of the sculptors advised me to go home, but I was naive enough to think all I had to do was carry photographs of my work and people would hire me on the spot."

Finding a job proved to be harder than that. At length, though, the young sculptor did find employment with John Gregory, who needed help preparing sculptures of Shakespearean scenes for the Folger-Shakespeare Library in Washington, D. C.

For six years before coming to the U.S., young Belskie had been courting a pretty Scottish lass named Helen Atkinson. She joined him in this country on St. Patrick's Day, 1930, and they were married two days later.

"I ate a lot of tuna fish and buttermilk," he recalls, "to save money to bring the Mrs. over."

In 1933, when his work with Gregory was finished, Belskie took a sentimental journey back to Scotland with his wife. On their return to America, he found jobs even scarcer than before. At one point, he was forced to take a job as a stone carver, finishing other sculptors' work.

He worked from time to time with Malvina Hoffman, a well-known sculptress, and it was through her that he met — and became associated with — Dr. Dickinson. His collaboration with the doctor on sculptured anatomical models began when they prepared a series of models for a display in the Hall of Man at the 1939 New York World's Fair. The year 1939 was doubly important for Belskie, for it was then that he became a U.S. citizen, too.

Belskie and Dickinson worked together more than a dozen years, and during that time the

(See BELSKIE Page 12)

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We invite you to visit us Monday through Saturday. I'm sure you'll find something to enhance your collection.

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION ANA MEMBER

EASTERN COIN EXCHANGE

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PHONE 342-8170

Jersey Gives New Halves A Half-Hearted Welcome

Uncle Sam's birthday coins have made their first appearance — but in New Jersey, at least, it's been a quiet debut.

Garden State banks report relatively little demand for the bicentennial half dollar, first of three special coins being issued to mark the 200th anniversary of U.S. independence.

And coin dealers say there's also limited interest in the proof and uncirculated silver bicentennial coin sets.

Some banks were restricting distribution of the new half dollars — but more as a precaution than because they were being deluged with requests.

At the First National Bank of Toms River, for example, customers were allowed to buy only one roll of the new coins — $10 worth — at a time. But few customers wanted even one roll.

"They're plentiful, and there hasn't really been a lot of demand," said Mrs. Christine Juranich, a cash room employe of the bank. "We're even getting some of them back from customers," she added.

The bicentennial half dollar retains the portrait of President John F. Kennedy on the obverse, but the reverse bears a special bicentennial design: a depiction of Independence Hall in Philadelphia, where the Declaration of Independence was signed. To complete the birthday package, the coin is double-dated 1776-1976.

More than 100 million examples of the coin were released July 7 by the 37 Federal Reserve banks and branches. It took weeks for some New Jersey banks to get their first shipments, though.

The delays resulted, in part, bankers said, from the fact that the Federal Reserve was delivering the coins only to banks' main offices.

"Our branches can't get them directly," said Albert C. Rohlfs, manager of New Jersey National Bank's Asbury Park office, "so we have to wait for them to come down from our main office in Trenton."

Pending the arrival of further shipments, New Jersey National was limiting customers to two of the new half dollars at first — but even at that, Rohlfs said, there was "very little call" for them.

At least one bank, the Somerset-based Franklin State Bank, still hadn't gotten any new halves three weeks after their release.

"The Federal Reserve seems to be allocating the coins on a bank-size basis," Phyllis Angione of Franklin State's marketing office complained.

Most banks appeared to have had no such problems, however — and most had adequate, or even ample, supplies of the new coins on hand.

Demand did rival supply at some banks. In Ocean County, for example, First State Bank reported active interest in the coins at four branches located in or near retirement communities.

"Everyone seems to know about them there," said Mrs. Barbara Guarino, manager at the bank's main office in Toms River. "They all want to have them to give to their grandchildren."

With its supply still somewhat limited, the bank was rationing the coins on a two-to-a-customer basis.

Interest in the bicentennial coinage figured to get a shot in the arm in late August with the release of the new Washington quarter, second of the three special coins to hit the banks. The third birthday coin, the Eisenhower dollar, was scheduled to follow in a month or so.

The reverse of the quarter portrays a Colonial drummer and a torch, while the dollar shows the Liberty Bell superimposed on the moon — a theme intended to dramatize the strides the nation has made. These, too, are double-dated 1776-1976.

Many coin dealers were giving out the new half dollars - the cupronickel ones, that is — in change. And some felt they might have to do likewise with the silver bicentennial coin sets in order to get customers to buy them.

"There's just no market for these things," said Winfield R. "Win" Bailey, co-owner of the Jersey Coin & Stamp Exchange, Hazlet Township. "After all, the government's having trouble selling them at the issue price — so how can we expect to get a premium."

The U.S. Mint is offering the sets, which contain one example of each of the three bicentennial coins, at $12 in proof and $9 uncirculated — and from all indications, it is not being swamped with orders.

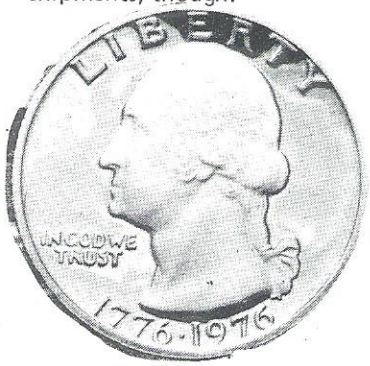
Dealers do report big demand for the regular 1975 proof set, which contains cupronickel examples of the bicentennial coins — but this is clearly prompted not by the quarter, half dollar, and dollar, but by the cent, which apparently will be the only S-mint cent struck this year.

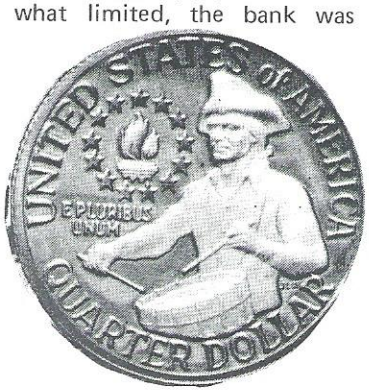
On the whole, Garden State hobbyists seemed to welcome the change in their change.

"People like the half dollar," said James Duffy, manager of the Ocean County Stamp & Coin Shop, Point Pleasant. "They seem to think it's an improvement over the regular version. The only thing is, they'd like to see all the coins changed."

Donald J. Muniz, president of East Coast Coin Co., Eatontown, figures any such change has to be good for the hobby.

"Let's face it," he said, "anything like this creates interest — and that can't help but build things up."





ABOVE: *Patricia Kruvant of Bloomfield was only 6 at the time, but she seemed to know what she was doing at this 1973 coin show.*

ABOVE: *Danny Platt of Jackson Township has been winning trophies for his coin displays since he was only 5. This 1971 trophy was almost as big as he was.*

The Hobby Isn't Kid Stuff to Kids

Coin collecting is a hobby for everyone — young and old alike.

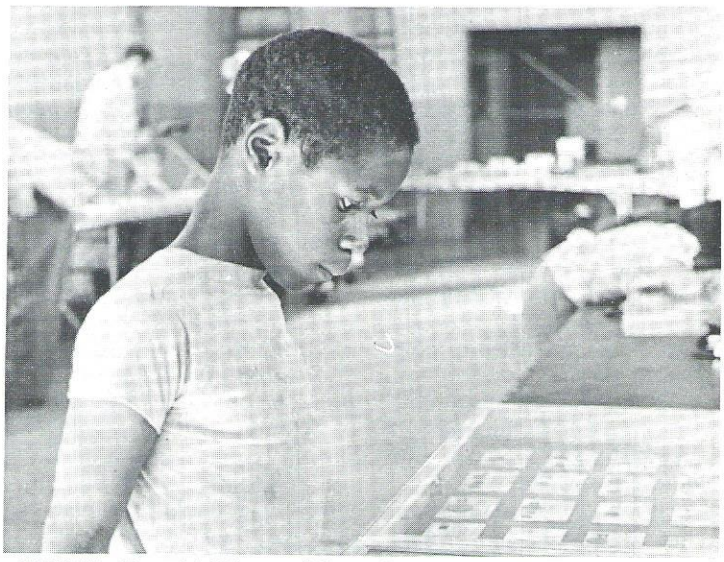
Old coins seem to hold special fascination, though, for young people. And in recent years, more and more coin clubs — from the national association down to the smallest local clubs — have set up special programs for junior members.

Do young collectors take the hobby seriously? These photographs show a few of them in action in New Jersey.

Judge for yourself.

ABOVE: *Kathy Trumper of Pine Beach is an avid coin collector, and has won awards for her displays.*

ABOVE: *James Bartlett (left) and Scott Koerner collaborated on this display at a Long Branch coin show.*



ABOVE: *Donald Gibson of Long Branch admires a display of animal coins at a Monmouth Coin Club show.*

Just Call Him 'Cent-a' Claus

Raymond M. Sniffen of Red Bank will never make any money out of coin collecting, the way he goes about it. He's making lots of friends, though — and to him that's more important.

Sniffen, a semi-retired painter and paperhanger, assembles sets of Lincoln cents from 1941 to date — then gives them away. In the last five or six years, he figures he's given away nearly 300 penny folders — most of them to youngsters.

"I've had my fun from coin collecting through the years," he explains, "and now I'm sharing it with others. This gives me something to do in my spare time, and it's a nice feeling to see the pleasure in people's faces when I give them these books."

A complete set of Lincoln cents from 1941 to 1975 — not counting varieties and the proof-only 1975-S cent — consists of 89 coins. Sniffen gets some of these from circulation and buys the ones he can't find. He also buys Whitman folders, at a cost of 75 cents each, to house the coins.

"I've had to cut down a little in the last year or so," he says, "because I'm on Social Security now and the coins and the folders have gone up in price. I do whatever I can, though, because I get a lot of satisfaction out of it."

Each set — with the folder — costs him about $3, he estimates.

"I'm doing it mostly to help kids get started," Sniffen says. "Let's face it, silver is gone from circulation today; you have to buy silver coins if you want them. So it's harder for young people to get interested in coins than it was for us years ago.

"I like to think that by doing this I am helping the hobby in a small way, by helping young people get into coin collecting."

When he started assembling "free sample" sets, he intended them only as gifts for his grandchildren.

"It snowballed," he remarks. "I just kept doing it and doing it. I started giving them to the neighbors, then to our friends' kids, the paper boys, and so on.

Raymond M. Sniffen and his wife, Ruth, place Lincoln cents in Whitman folders in their Red Bank home. Sniffen has given away hundreds of such folders in recent years — mostly to youngsters. (Photo courtesy of the Asbury Park Press)

"I've given them to grown-ups, too. They make nice birthday and Christmas presents, you know. Of course, I don't need a special occasion to give them to someone. I've given them to clerks in different stores where I shop, and I've given them to tellers at the bank — and you should see the reception I get any time I go in now."

Sniffen's personal interest in coin collecting dates back to 1964.

"My wife was saving silver dollars and half dollars," he recalls, "and pretty soon I got the idea that if she could do it, I could, too."

He began filling folders with coins he found in change — from cents right through half dollars.

"I just got in on the tail end of the silver coins," he says, "but I did accumulate enough books to make it interesting."

He sold most of his collection in 1972, with the idea of using the money to help his wife, Ruth, and him relocate in Florida. They actually did sell their house and travel to Fort Lauderdale — but the move didn't last long.

"After two days," he says, "I got homesick and turned around and came back. I got there Friday, and Monday morning I got homesick."

Though he didn't stay in Florida, Sniffen did make his mark there with his unusual approach to coin collecting. While visiting there, he gave a penny folder to a friend's teenaged daughter — and she was so enthused he went a step further and bought her an empty folder, so she could fill one herself, and a magnifying glass for use in examining coins.

By the time he left, the girl had organized a small coin club with eight of her friends.

"That pleased me very much," he says. "It made me feel good that I could help a little bit."

It takes Sniffen about 40 minutes to assemble each penny set after he acquires all the coins. He buys rolls of all the Lincoln Memorial cents in mint condition, and buys rolls of earlier cents, when necessary, in circulated condition.

"You can buy books already put together, and they don't cost that much more," he notes, "but I'd rather put them together myself. It keeps me occupied."

A slipped disc and spinal arthritis forced him to curtail his painting and paperhanging several years ago — "so I'm glad I've got the hobby to work with now," he says.

He and his wife have a son, a daughter, and four grandchildren — and while coin fever hasn't yet spread to the rest of the family, they're hoping one of the grandchildren will catch it later on.

Some of his hobbyist friends don't think much of his brand of "collecting," Sniffen admits.

"They tell me I'm crazy," he says. "The way I figure, though, we're here to help each other. And by helping younger people get into the hobby, we also help ourselves."

He hasn't done much collecting in his own behalf of late. It doesn't appear to bother him, though.

"To tell the truth," he says, "I'm getting more fun out of giving these sets away than I did when I was selling and buying coins."

Wooden Nickels, Anyone?

"Don't take any wooden nickels," people often say.

Customers of the Chatham Savings and Loan Association disregarded that advice recently — and they're not sorry they did.

As a promotion, Chatham Savings gave away sets of two wooden nickels whose designs were patterned after those on the New Jersey copper coins of 1786 and '87. They were available without charge to anyone who asked for them at either of the two Chatham Savings offices.

The promotion proved so popular that Robert Huntington, president of Chatham Savings, made the wooden nickel designs available to nonprofit organizations. Subsequently, the wooden nickels were offered, at modest premiums, by the Library of the Chathams, the Chatham Township American Revolution Bicentennial Committee, and the Morristown Coin Club.

Harold Flartey, coin columnist for the Daily Record of Morristown, described these goings-on in his June 1 column, sparking further interest in the "coins."

At last report, all the sets were still available except the coin club set, which was offered only at the club's show June 22. According to columnist Flartey, they could be ordered by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope, plus 25 cents for each set desired, to Jersey Justin, F-18 Hickory Place, Chatham Township, N.J. 07928.

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Belskie

Continued from Page 6

sculptor helped develop and perfect exact-scale latex teaching models of the type now used in medical schools and hospitals throughout the U.S. In the process, he picked up more than a little medical knowledge himself.

"I couldn't have learned as much about the body," he remarks, "if I'd gone to medical school. Dr. Dickinson took me into dissection rooms at New York medical clinics, and specialists in various fields worked with me. Operating procedures gave me a chance to see the living organ, too, which was very important; I was interested in the living form, not the dead.

"Medicine for teaching was a tremendous responsibility," he adds. "When people look at a three-dimensional thing, they'll accept it, because they can see it all around. You can get away with things in two-dimensional work, but not on something like this."

Belskie devoted himself almost exclusively to medical work during his association with Dr. Dickinson. Starting in 1952, though, after Dickinson's death, he channeled his energies into more conventional forms once again.

It was in 1952 that he designed his first medal. He has fashioned many more since — and time and again they have dealt with medical men and institutions. In all probability, he has designed more medals on these themes than any other artist now alive — and it may well be that no one has ever surpassed him in this regard.

In addition to the "Great Men of Medicine" series, he also has designed, among other medallic works, the 25th anniversary medal for the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, a medallion for the Ortho Research Foundation, and the centennial medal for the New York Medical College. On a larger scale, he sculpted bronze busts of J. Seward Johnson for Johnson & Johnson Corp., New Brunswick, and a surgeon for the Ethicon Building, Somerville.

Nor have all his medallic works been medically oriented. His medals also include the 49th issue of the Society of Medalists, a 1954 issue exploring the art of sculpture; National Commemorative Society tributes to Thomas Jefferson and Adm. Richard E. Byrd, and an American Negro Commemorative Society issue honoring Frederick Douglas. Many of the medals he designed were struck by The Franklin Mint, which was instrumental in launching the ANA's numismatic art award nearly a decade ago.

Belskie has received a number of other major awards, among them the 1959 J. Sanford Saltus Medal from the American Numismatic Society. In addition, he is listed in Who's Who in America.

He and his wife have two sons, Albert and Victor — neither of whom has followed in the footsteps of their father.

The medical works of Abram Belskie may not be of much direct interest to coin hobbyists. His deep knowledge of the medical field gives added dimension to his medicine-related medals, though — and when it come to "medal-cine," this modern-day Renaissance man is just what the doctor and the coin collector ordered.

Please Write

The New Jersey Numismatic Journal welcomes stories and story suggestions from readers. Club news, show reports, and feature articles on coins or collectors are invited and encouraged.

Hobbyists with specialized interests, such as paper money, tokens and medals, and ancient coins, are especially urged to submit articles on those subjects for possible publication.

Where possible, editorial material should have direct bearing on New Jersey and/or Garden State collectors.

The NJNJ is unable to offer monetary compensation for such, but bylines will be used where appropriate.

All editorial material should be sent to Ed Reiter, Editor, NJNJ, 1010 Sunset Ave., Asbury Park, N.J. 07712.

Material for use in the Fall 1975 issue, scheduled for publication in mid-November, should be received by mid-October.

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CLUB CALENDAR

The **ATLANTIC COAST STAMP & COIN CLUB** held its 1st annual stamp and coin exhibition and bourse Aug. 24 at the Kings Grant Inn, State Highway 70, Point Pleasant. There were 30 bourse tables.

New secretary of the **COIN CLUB OF OCEAN COUNTY** is Jerry Zara, P.O. Box 248, Brick Township, N. J. 08723. Charles Berg is now club president. The club meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, at 7:30 p.m., in the Firemen's Memorial Hall, Rte. 88 and Memorial Drive, Point Pleasant.

The **ISRAEL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF CENTRAL JERSEY** has elected Sylvia Haffner an honorary member. Mrs. Haffner, author of *THE HISTORY OF MODERN ISRAEL'S MONEY,* was guest speaker at the club's May 19 meeting.

The **NORTHERN VALLEY COIN CLUB** will hold a coin show Sept. 27 in the Bergen Mall Auditorium, Paramus. Some 50 dealers are expected to have tables. Hours will be 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The 15th annual **MONMOUTH COIN CLUB** show has been cut to a single day. It will be held Sept 28 in the National Guard Armory, Ocean Ave., Long Branch. Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

(All New Jersey coin clubs are invited to submit information about meetings, shows, and other activities. Correspondence should be sent to the Calendar Editor, New Jersey Numismatic Journal, 1010 Sunset Ave., Asbury Park, N. J. 07712.)

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East Coast Sets Mail Bid Sale

East Coast Coin Co., Eatontown, is offering more than 200 lots in its first mail bid coin sale.

High-grade early large cents, scarce U.S. gold coins, and a nearly complete set of U.S. commemorative half dollars are among the high-lights of the sale, according to Donald J. Muniz, president of the firm.

The large cents include a very fine to extremely fine 1793 Wreath cent, two VF 1794 Liberty Cap cents, and an XF to about uncirculated 1808 Classic Head cent.

Major gold coin offerings include an XF 1814 half eagle, a Mint State-60 three dollar gold piece of 1867, an MS-65 one-dollar gold piece of 1883, and two MS-60 high-relief Saint-Gaudens double eagles of 1907.

Cover coin of the sale catalog is yet another scarce gold coin: a brilliant uncirculated 1873 closed-3 one-dollar gold piece.

A "nice selection" of U.S. commemorative gold coins will be offered in addition to the half dollar set, Muniz says.

Other attractive lots include an XF 1799 silver dollar, an MS-60 example of the scarce 1803 small-3 half dollar, a nearly complete set of uncirculated two-cent pieces, and a complete set of proof Shield and Liberty Head nickels. In addition, there is a good selection of Morgan-type silver dollars.

Though U.S. coins predominate in the sale, there also is a smattering of ancient coins.

The coins were cataloged by Muniz and Eugene T. Yotka. About 90 percent were consigned to East Coast specifically for the sale, with the balance coming from the company's stock.

The catalog, complete with illustrations of the actual major coins, is being offered through ads in major hobby publications for $2, plus $1 for the list of prices realized. Copies of both the catalog and the prices realized list are being sent free of charge, however, to members of the Garden State Numismatic Association. Muniz is a life member of GSNA, and Yotka is a regular member of the association.

If the sale is as successful as anticipated, Muniz plans to schedule more such sales on a regular basis — possibly four times a year.

Closing date for bids in this sale is Oct. 24.

Further information can be obtained by writing to East Coast Coin Co., 264 Hwy. 35, Eatontown, N.J. 07724.

Pullen Brothers List Early Notes

The Collector's Gallery, Robbinsville, has published a 16-page price list offering an extensive selection of Colonial and Continental currency. "Large offerings of this type and calibre are unheard of except through auction sales," say Norman and Bill Pullen, owners of the firm, adding, "We are proud to present this grouping on the eve of our country's bicentennial."

Garden State hobbyists will be particularly interested in the large selection of New Jersey notes, including some especially nice notes from 1776, the year of the nation's birth.

These include a superb uncirculated 18-pence note with jumbo margins, a gem uncirculated 30-pence note, a gem uncirculated 3-pounds note, and two gem uncirculated 6-pounds notes — all dated March 25, 1776. One of the 6-pounds notes has large margins.

Notes are offered from all 13 colonies, and from 10 different issues of Continental currency.

Highlights include 10 scarce notes from Georgia, a bright, crisp uncirculated, uncut sheet of six $2, $3, and $4 notes from South Carolina, and a selection of notes signed by famous Colonial leaders, among them John Morton and John Hart, two signers of the Declaration of Independence, and Ben Jacobs and Benjamin Levy, the only two Jewish signers of Continental notes.

The price list saves its best for last: it closes with an offering of four magnificently framed Colonial note ensembles, including two of New Jersey notes. These, it says, "are of museum quality, double glassed, matted with velvet, with descriptive strikes."

The New Jersey ensembles are a complete denomination set of nine crisp uncirculated notes of March 25, 1776, and a complete denomination set of eight notes — five uncirculated and three extremely fine — from June 9, 1780, a scarce issue.

The other two ensembles are a complete 13-note set of the Colonial currency of all 13 colonies and a fine to very fine example of the 2-shilling, 6-pence "Rising Sun" issue engraved by Paul Revere.

"With the current interest in all types of Colonial Americana reaching new heights under the stimulus of American bicentennial publicity," the Pullens say, "we anticipate tremendous collector enthusiasm in this overlooked field of numismatics.

"Future price appreciation is almost a guarantee under these circumstances," they add.

Copies of the price list can be obtained by writing to Collector's Gallery, Routes 130 and 526, Robbinsville, N.J. 08691.

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This July, the people of the world will witness one of the most extraordinary events in the history of man's fascination with space.

For the two most technologically advanced nations of the world, the United States and the Soviet Union, are cooperating in the first international manned spaceflight—a momentous venture of lasting scientific and diplomatic importance.

The mission is the *Apollo Soyuz Test Project* (ASTP). On July 15, the Soviet spacecraft Soyuz and the U.S. spacecraft Apollo will be thrust into earth orbit. Within two days, as the world watches via color television, the Apollo is scheduled to rendezvous and link up with the Soyuz in history's first manned space docking of two crafts from two nations.

During the 40 or more hours that the space crafts are joined, the two crews—three American astronauts and two Russian cosmonauts—will enter each others modules, exchange gifts, and conduct some two dozen joint scientific experiments. *And during those same hours, back on earth, the Medallic Art Company will be striking a permanent medallic record of this unprecedented event.*

AN AUTHENTICALLY DETAILED, HIGH RELIEF ART MEDAL COMMEMORATING HISTORY'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL SPACE EFFORT

As an enduring artistic summation of the mission, this high relief fine art medal has been designed to honor *both* of the cooperating nations. Officially, the medal has no designated obverse or reverse, as each side carries equal weight and importance.

On the American side, in the foreground, is a highly detailed portrait of the Apollo shown at the instant before docking with the Soyuz. The southeastern United States and the site of the Apollo launch from the Kennedy Space Center are shown, with the legend "Apollo Soyuz" and the names of the three astronauts and two cosmonauts in English.

The Russian side of the medal shows the Soyuz in the foreground, and includes a view of the Soviet Union with the Soviet Soyuz launch site at Tyuratam. The legend appears in Cyrillic characters.

The background for both sides is a view of space modeled from a painting commissioned by NASA. Both sides also depict the official emblem of the flight at top center. Around the edge of the medal will be impressed the pertinent data of the mission—dates of lift-off, docking and recovery—to form a permanent Flight Log.

Noted sculptor Marcel Jovine was chosen to create this medal because of his unusual talent for combining technical accuracy, realism, and superb artistry. His original sculpture is a dramatic portrait that capsulizes the very essence of this mission. In a deeper sense, Jovine's design also evokes a renewed sense of man's courage and brilliance in the awesome sphere of space exploration. The Jovine monogram appears on the American side and his name in Russian is on the other side of the medal.

GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZE EDITIONS AVAILABLE

Because of the importance of this event, Medallic Art Company is striking this medal as a rare *corporate issue,* in three editions:

18-Karat Gold, 1¼" diameter, high relief. Limited edition of 500. $400.

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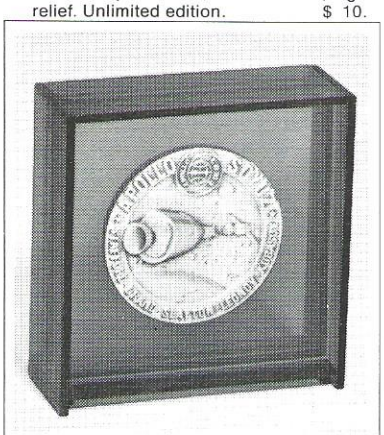

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As one of the highest relief, most detailed, and most beautiful commemoratives of an epic event, this fine art medal is certain to be in demand by historians, space enthusiasts, and members of the armed forces and aeronautical community, as well as by collectors around the world.

Certainly, it is a meaningful keepsake for future generations, with substantial appreciation potential—especially in the extremely limited precious metal editions. Whether as a choice addition to your own collection, as a gift, or as an investment, you are urged to act quickly if you wish to acquire it. Please fill in and mail the order form below.

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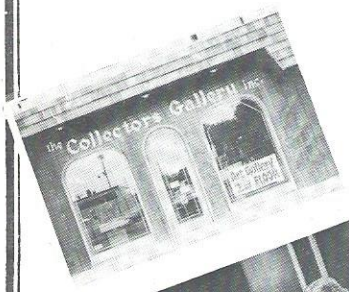

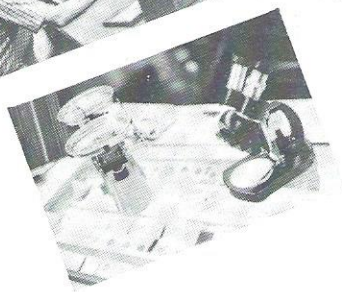

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